

Let Us Do Everything with Great Love

Friday, October 14

Hi, all –

Many qualities make a great teacher. He or she has to have great communication skills, an ability to multitask, a broad knowledge base, a creativity approach, a good sense of humor, keen organization, boundless *energy* – and one component that ties all those together: the commitment to keep learning, to keep growing, to keep getting better.



Last Friday and then again on Monday of this week, our St. Ann teachers and I were busy doing just that. Friday, after a morning School of Faith session, we spent the afternoon fine tuning plans to strengthen differentiated instruction in each of our classrooms, then planned, researched, and created project-based learning units. Monday we continued the growth process by joining ten other regional archdiocesan schools in a day-long workshop on 21st century teaching and learning; it was the perfect next-step in our process of improving the already high level of classroom instruction throughout our building.

Twenty-first century learning is a bold, much needed turn in our educational process. It invites us to run our classrooms with a much more “real world” approach – that is, giving students choices, promoting collaboration, focusing on process and creativity, integrating technology, concentrating on critical thinking, and relating all material to one or more essential question – *Why is it important to know this?* Project-based learning means moving away from rote learning and toward meaningful, memorable learning experiences. It means that kids in fifth grade won’t all make identical posters of facts about a particular saint; instead, they’ll determine – in a presentation method each student or small group chooses – how that saint influences us today, and why it’s important for us to know about him or her. Will students still have to find facts to do this? Sure, but they’ll *use* the facts, not *stop* at the facts.

Our teachers began learning how to create 21st century classrooms this summer, and we worked together in August to get started, so we are ahead of the curve! Each teacher in our building will be implementing one project-based learning experience each semester this year. As these occur, we’ll let you know how the process is going. My guess is, though, that you’ll already know – because this kind of learning lends itself to great family dinner conversations!

The info on the next two pages will help you see the differences 21st century education will make for your child. If you have questions, ask your child’s teacher what he or she has planned. This is exciting stuff!!

See you next week! - Becky

20th Century Classroom vs. the 21st Century Classroom



USA 1960's typical classroom – teacher-centered, fragmented curriculum, students working in isolation, memorizing facts.



A classroom at the School of Environmental Studies, aka the Zoo School, in Minneapolis. A perfect example of real-life, relevant, project-based 21st century education.

Time-based	Outcome-based
Focus: memorization of discrete facts	Focus: what students Know, Can Do and Are Like after all the details are forgotten.
Lessons focus on the lower level of Bloom's Taxonomy – knowledge, comprehension and application.	Learning is designed on upper levels of Blooms' – synthesis, analysis and evaluation (and include lower levels as curriculum is designed down from the top.)
Textbook-driven	Research-driven
Passive learning	Active Learning
Learners work in isolation – classroom within 4 walls	Learners work collaboratively with classmates and others around the world – the Global Classroom
Teacher-centered: teacher is center of attention and provider of information	Student-centered: teacher is facilitator/coach
Little to no student freedom	Great deal of student freedom
"Discipline problems" – educators do not trust students and vice versa. No student motivation.	No "discipline problems" – students and teachers have mutually respectful relationship as co-learners; students are highly motivated.
Fragmented curriculum	Integrated and Interdisciplinary curriculum
Grades averaged	Grades based on what was learned
Low expectations	High expectations – "If it isn't good it isn't done." We expect, and ensure, that all students succeed in learning at high levels. Some may go higher – we get out of their way to let them do that.

Teacher is judge. No one else sees student work.	Self, Peer and Other assessments. Public audience, authentic assessments.
Curriculum/School is irrelevant and meaningless to the students.	Curriculum is connected to students' interests, experiences, talents and the real world.
Print is the primary vehicle of learning and assessment.	Performances, projects and multiple forms of media are used for learning and assessment
Diversity in students is ignored.	Curriculum and instruction address student diversity
Literacy is the 3 R's – reading, writing and math	Multiple literacies of the 21 st century – aligned to living and working in a globalized new millennium.
Factory model, based upon the needs of employers for the Industrial Age of the 19th century. Scientific management.	Global model, based upon the needs of a globalized, high-tech society.
Driven by the NCLB and standardized testing mania.	Standardized testing has its place. Education is not driven by the NCLB and standardized testing mania.

What is 21st century curriculum?



Twenty-first century curriculum has certain critical attributes. It is interdisciplinary, project-based, and research-driven. It is connected to the community – local, state, national and global. Sometimes students are collaborating with people around the world in various projects. The curriculum incorporates higher order thinking skills, multiple intelligences, technology and multimedia, the multiple literacies of the 21st century, and authentic assessments. Service learning is an important component.

The classroom is expanded to include the greater community. Students are self-directed, and work both independently and interdependently. The curriculum and instruction are designed to challenge all students, and provides for differentiation.

The curriculum is not textbook-driven or fragmented, but is thematic, project-based and integrated. Skills and content are not taught as an end in themselves, but students learn them through their research and application in their projects. Textbooks, if they have them, are just one of many resources.

Knowledge is not memorization of facts and figures, but is constructed through research and application, and connected to previous knowledge, personal experience, interests, talents and passions. The skills and content become relevant and needed as students require this information to complete their projects. The content and basic skills are applied within the context of the curriculum, and are not ends in themselves.

Assessment moves from regurgitation of memorized facts and disconnected processes to demonstration of understanding through application in a variety of contexts. Real-world audiences are an important part of the assessment process, as is self-assessment.

Source: *What is 21st Century Education?* www.21stcenturyschools.com.

Thoughtful Thursday

Each Thursday, we give a thank-you during morning announcements to those students whom someone has noticed being thoughtful. This week we gave a *Thoughtful Thursday* shout-out to fourth grader **Jake Ryan**, kindergartener **Grace Vanice**, and second grader **Emma Bunde**. Way to live our theme!

Cinderella

Seventh and eighth grade students in our fall Production class performed *Cinderella* on Thursday this week. It was a great show – with so much talent in the cast and crew! Kudos to directors **Amy Hetherington** and **Libby Lee**!



Did You Know...

...that our own **Amy Hetherington**, in addition to coordinating and directing our fall musical, *Cinderella*, made or altered many of the costumes herself? Amy is a talented seamstress, but doing this is way beyond the call of duty! What a dedicated music teacher we have!

And The Answer Is...

Our St. Ann Quiz Bowl Team! Congratulations to **Andrew McLeese**, **Grant Hiss**, **Clay Lundgren**, **Ben Wang**, **Connor Weiford**, and **John Schultz** – our representatives in the Bishop Miege Quiz Bowl Tournament on Thursday. Our team, led by social studies teacher **Kathleen Mersman**, earned a third place trophy at the competition. Way to go, guys!

Yum!!

Thanks to our wonderful seventh grade moms who prepared a delicious lunch for faculty and staff on Wednesday. What a treat!

Give>Take Wrist Bands

If your child has misplaced his “Give More Than You Take” wrist band, there are a limited number in the office that can be purchased for \$2.00.

Kindergarten / First Grade Open House

St. Ann will be hosting its first Open House for families of young children – those interested in our kindergarten and first grade for next year or beyond – on Sunday, October 23, 10:00 – 11:30 AM. If you have relatives, neighbors, or friends with babies, toddlers, or preschoolers, and who do not have older children here, please pass the word along. Classrooms will be open for visits, and teachers, parents, and current students will be on hand to answer questions. Spread the word! (This does not replace our winter Open House – no worries!!)

Health and Fitness Day

Next Friday, October 21 will be St. Ann School’s Annual Health and Fitness Day. Please wear appropriate athletic wear.



Health Office

Did you know that a flu shot can reduce your risk of getting the flu by up to 70%? The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a flu shot for everyone six months and older. Two years ago everyone was encouraged to get their annual flu as well as the H1N1 vaccines. This year the H1N1 is included in the vaccine, so only one application is required for anyone nine years and older. If students are younger than nine and have NEVER received a flu shot then, two are required 30 days apart. Multiple drug stores are offering flu vaccine clinics as well as your doctor's office.

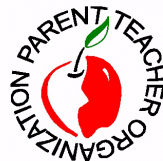
The pneumonia vaccine protects against pneumococcal disease which includes pneumonia, ear infections, strep throat, sinus infections etc. It is recommended for adults 65 years or older, 19-64 year olds who smoke or have asthma or other younger at-risk groups such as asthma, diabetes, frequent strep throat or ear infections, etc. This is a vaccine that is only given once every ten years.

Anytime your children receive immunizations, please bring that information to me so I am able to add it to their health history.

Glenda Magnus, R.N.

FYI: Please see the attached "Nutrition Nuggets" flyer for healthy food and fitness tips for your family.

In the Know with PTO



Know what's coming up:

Trunk or Treat- it's not just for the kids! This is no trick; pack a cooler, bring an appetizer to share and treat yourself to conversation and good cheer! Kids will enjoy parading in their costumes while parents enjoy each other. Join us for a ghoulishly good time on **Tuesday, October 25**; gates open at **5:00 pm**! Look for sign up flyers sent home via backpack mail.

Did you Know?

Our seventh grade volunteers did a GREAT job at Operation Breakthrough! We had 18 volunteers receive a full tour of the amazing facility, distribute Harvester's packages to children, and decorate birthday gift bags for some wonderful kids. Thanks for all the hard work!

Know what PTO has been up to:

Did all of the school's fall decorations just fall into place? Actually, the **PTO Decorating Committee** dressed up the halls to celebrate the autumn season. Thanks to these ladies for a decorating job well done: Libby Dodderidge, Sarah Emerson, and Lisa Nolke!



St. Ann Scrip *Every Cent Counts!*

Halloween is just around the corner! We have Scrip for all of your Halloween needs: candy at Hy-Vee (3%), Hen House (2%), or Price Chopper (3%), candy, costumes or decorations at Wal-Mart (2%) or Target (2%).

Celebrate Fall! Fall Garden Clean Up and Planting Season is Upon Us! We have Euston (8%), Family Tree (10%), and Suburban (10%) for mulch, mums, and more!

Pump up your Scrip Profit with our grocery store coupon books! Each coupon book earns \$4 profit, and the net cost of the coupon book is \$0 (\$5 cost - \$5 off your grocery purchase). We have coupon books for Hy-Vee (80%), Hen House (80%), and Price Chopper (80%).

How to get an order filled:

- We fill orders **daily**. Send your order and check via backpack mail in the morning, and we'll send your gift cards home via backpack mail the SAME DAY. (Backorders will be filled as soon as possible.)
- Weather permitting, the Scrip ladies will sell in the NORTH parking lot near the nurse's office every Friday from 2:30 until 2:55 p.m.
- Scrip is available throughout the weekend. During the month of October, Kim Warner will have the Scrip boxes.

Questions? Contact any of us:

Anita, (9) 710-9297
Meg, (8) 769-6146
Cadey, (9) 481-4527
Kim (9) 381-8118

Aok Projects



The 3rd Graders are collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House and we need your help! Every St. Ann family can help by saving tabs from soda cans, soup cans and sardine cans. You can deliver to any classroom. The Ronald McDonald House gives family with sick children a "home away from home."

Written by Mason Lewis and Sam Kanatzar



WANTED:

Halloween Candy for American Troops

Save yourself a stomach ache and help make a soldier smile!

- Please, donate bags of Halloween candy to St. Ann 5th grade students.
- **Beginning Monday, October 17 through Tuesday, November 1, students will be collecting Halloween candy as part of their AoK project... Operation Gratitude.**
- To donate, drop your candy in collection bins located in the school's main foyer or outside church entrances. Collection bins will also be available at St. Ann's Trunk-or-Treat!
- While the troops enjoy eating the candy, they also love sharing it with children who live in the patrolled areas.



Please help make our candy collection a "sweet success!"

Thank you for supporting our troops.

Questions? Contact Laura Hulsing at 913.648.4335 or Jennifer Hiss at 913.648.2310.

St. Ann Parish News

Parish Hall Kitchen

Over time, many nice serving pieces have been left in the parish hall kitchen following a PTO event, condolence luncheon, reception, or other function. If you are missing an item, please check the kitchen as soon as possible. After October 24th, all remaining items will be removed and donated to Catholic Charities TurnStyles.

Family Movie One Weekend Only!

Heads up for family fun! A family movie produced by Steve McAveety (Passion of the Christ, Braveheart) is being released in Kansas City **for one weekend only at AMC 20 - Town Center Leawood on October 21-23, 2011!**

The movie is **Snowmen** and *the message is Every One Counts!* This is a GREAT opportunity for family friendly fun! Get out the support for **Snowmen** and send the message that America wants good family movies! Watch the **Snowmen** trailer at www.snowmenmovie.com - See you there!



During the weeks of **October 16-November 6**, our parish will again be participating in the **BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG**, a campaign to benefit the Wyandotte Pregnancy Center.

Since opening in 2007 under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, this clinic has saved over 200 babies from abortion by providing support at no cost to women and their families facing an unplanned pregnancy. Among the services provided are pregnancy tests, sonograms, prenatal, parenting, and life skills classes, and sexual integrity. This is an opportunity for our parish families to have hands-on involvement in a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes a lasting difference in the mothers' lives.

Baby bottles will be distributed, one per family, next Sunday, October 16, after all Masses. Families are invited to take the bottle home, and over the next three weeks fill it with coins, currency, or a check, then return it to the church on November 6. Included in the bottles are prayers that can be recited for each week of the campaign. Even if you are unable to make a monetary donation, your prayers are appreciated. We only ask that you return the bottle so it can be re-used for future campaigns. On behalf of Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic, thank you for your support.

ST. ANN TIGERS CYO BASKETBALL 2011-2012 SEASON

www.stannpvsports.org

Welcome back to St. Ann Tiger basketball. All 4th thru 8th grade parishioners and students are eligible to play CYO basketball. Please have your child tell Ms. McCaffrey about their intention to play basketball beginning as soon as possible.

COACHES, PLAYERS, and PARENTS -- IMPORTANT INFO

PARENTS: Parents please register your kids with CYO and pay the St. Ann fee. Please remember that CYO basketball is expected to be your primary sport during the season. If you have conflicts with other sports, CYO basketball should take precedence. Call me with any questions.

***CYO Registration:** Please register your child with the CYO (on-line). The Fee is \$25 and covers all CYO sports being played for the current school year. If you have already registered for football or volleyball you do not have to register again. <http://www.cyojwa.org/>.

***St. Ann fee:** Kay McCaffrey will collect the St. Ann basketball fees from the kids during PE. The registration fee is \$75 and is due November 1st. Make checks payable to St. Ann CYO.

You will NOT be allowed to tryout or participate until BOTH Fees have been paid.

COACHES: All St. Ann CYO basketball coaches should attend the coach's meeting Tues. Nov. 2nd at 7:00 PM in the music room above the gym.

PLAYERS: 5th - 8th graders should attend evaluation sessions as scheduled below. If you do not try out you will be placed on the more recreational team. No tryouts for 4th grade.

*Boys Basketball Tryouts: Mon. 11/07 and Wed. 11/09 (5th at 4:00, 6th at 5:15, 7th at 6:30, 8th at 7:45)

*Girls Basketball Tryouts: Tues. 11/08 and Thur. 11/10 (5th at 4:00, 6th at 5:15, 7th at 6:30, 8th at 7:45)

BASKETBALL COORDINATOR: Nick Hulsing. (913-648-4335) nhulsing@yahoo.com.

Further information and details can be found at our website:

www.stannpvsports.org